THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) India's exports of merchandise goods during 2001-2002, registered a decline of 1.17 per cent as compared to the previous year basically due to the global economic slowdown and the impact of events of September 11 and its aftermath. However, India's exports in April-May 2002-2003 has shown a positive growth of 10.46 per cent India's exports of merchandise goods recorded growth of 10.8 per cent and 19.7 per cent respectively during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(d) Several short term interventionist measures have been taken by the Government to arrest the declining trend owing to the global economic slow down which *inter alia* include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters, extension of normal repatriation period up to 360 days, abolition of value caps in the case of DEPB for more than 400 export items. A medium term export strategy has been announced for the period 2002—2007, which aims at achieving 1 per cent of world exports by the year 2006-2007. Besides these, Exime Policy for 2002—2007 announced recently has also incorporated a number of measures to proactively promote exports which *inter alia* include permitting offshore Banking units in Special Economic Zones, a scheme to reimburse certain admissible expenses for export of certain agricultural products, development of clusters to help small scale exports, additional support for electronic hardware exports, further reduction in transaction costs, etc.

Placing of India on priority watch-list by USA

58. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI K. N ATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has once again placed India on the priority watch list of its Special 301 provision to deal with intellectual property violations;

(b) if so, whether the failure to provide patent protection for pharmaceuticals and farm chemicals has been cited as the main cause for the action;

(c) whether after the annual review, the US Trade Representative has opted to put India the 15-nation European Union and 12 other countries on the watch list for another year;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) As per Annual Special 301 Report for 2002, released by the United States Trade Representative (USTR), India has been retained in the Priority Watch-list along with European Union and 12 other countries. The Report says that India's Patent system is far from complaint with its obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.

(d) and (e) India has undertaken appropriate initiative and has enacted/ amended legislation related to protection of Intellectual Property Rights to meet its obligation under the TRIPS Agreement.

Visit of Canadian Trade Te am to India

59. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Canadian Trade Team had visited India very recently (April 2002);

(b) if so what was the outcome of the Trade team visit;

(c) the number of Agreements/ MoUs/treaties etc. signed alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) in what manner Indian trades would get boost from these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, Mr. Pierre Pettigrew, Chanadian Minister for International Trade accompanied by a large delegation of businessmen visited India in April 2002. No Agreements were signed between the two Governments but both the countries now have better appreciation of measures required to be taken for increasing bilateral trade.